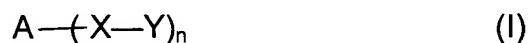


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An aromatic compound expressed by the following general formula (I):



wherein A represents a fused polyaromatic hydrocarbon moiety, X represents a hydrogen-bonding site selected from among atomic groups containing an amide linkage, an urea linkage, a thiourea linkage or an urethane linkage, Y represents a chain functional group having 3 to 18 carbon atoms, and n represents an integer ranging from 2 to 10.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The An aromatic compound according to claim 1,~~
expressed by the following general formula (I):

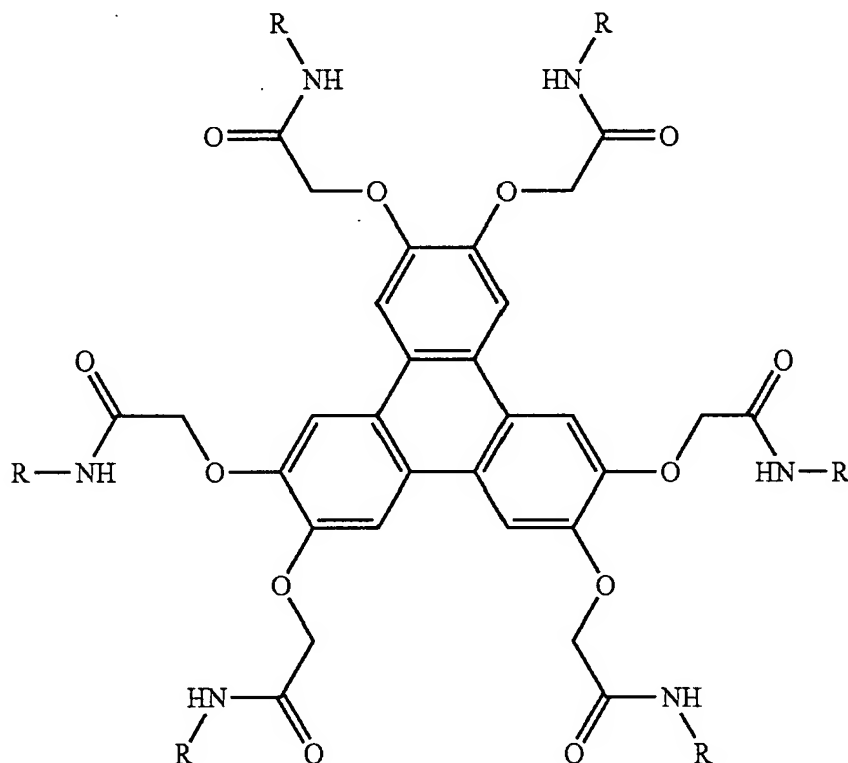


wherein A represents a said fused polyaromatic hydrocarbon moiety is selected from among triphenylene, acenes, phenanthrene, perylene, fluorene, pyrene, coronene and hexabenzocoronene, ~~said~~ X represents a hydrogen-bonding site is selected from among atomic groups containing an amide linkage, an urea linkage, a thiourea linkage or an urethane linkage, Y represents a and said chain functional group having 3 to 18 carbon atoms, and is selected from among an alkyl group, a fluoroalkyl group and a polyethylene glycol group, and n represents an integer ranging from 2 to 10.

3. (Original) The aromatic compound according to claim 1, wherein said chain functional group has 10 to 18 carbon atoms.

4. (Original) The aromatic compound according to claim 1, wherein said fused aromatic hydrocarbon is triphenylene.

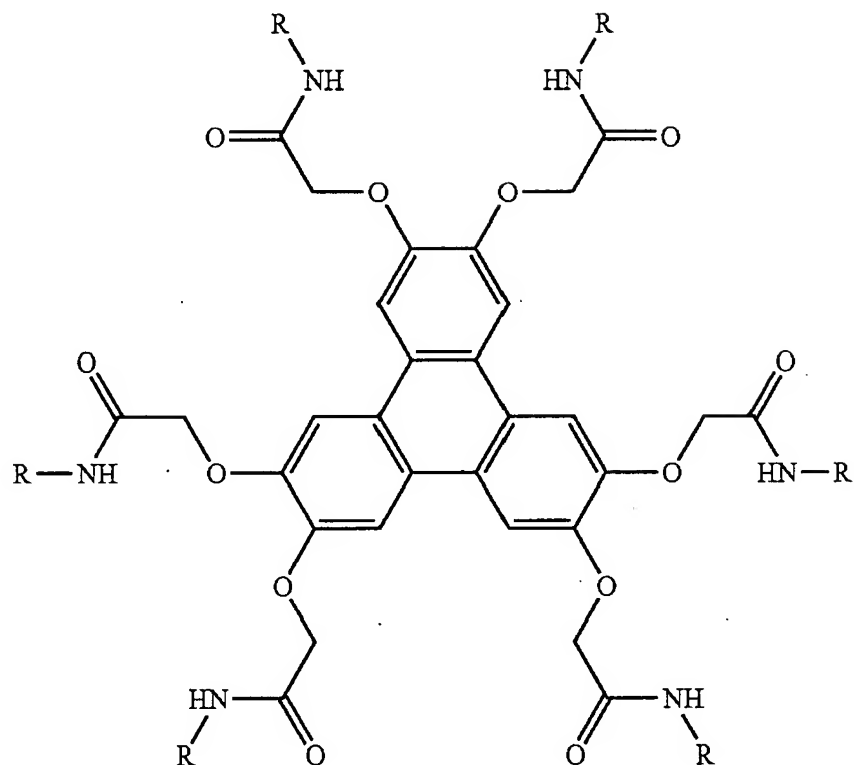
5. (Currently Amended) The aromatic compound according to claim [[4]] 2, wherein said fused aromatic hydrocarbon is triphenylene and said formula (I) is expressed by the following formula (II):



wherein R represents an alkyl group having 3 to 18 carbon atoms.

6. (Original) The aromatic compound according to claim 5, wherein said R is an alkyl group having 10 to 18 carbon atoms.

7. (New) An aromatic compound expressed by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents an alkyl group having 3 to 18 carbon atoms.